

ASHBOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

W. J. MORRISSEY, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

S. BENTHAM, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

for the year

1956

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ASHBOURNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

1956

PUBLIC HEALTH AND WATERWORKS COMMITTEE

Chairman: Councillor F. J. Edge

Councillor J. E. Adin	Councillor J. L. Peel
" H. McN. Callow	" W. Preston
" S. Cox	" G. W. Rose
" J. P. Gadsby	" J. C. Smith
" Mrs. D. Grimshaw	" W. Spencer
" E. G. Hamblin	" W. Taylor
Councillor R. Unwin	

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

<u>Medical Officer of Health</u>	:	W. J. Morrissey, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.
<u>Public Health Inspector</u>	:	S. Bentham, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.
<u>Clerk</u>	:	Mrs. C.E. Clarke



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

To the Urban District Council of Ashbourne

Public Health Department,  
Compton Offices,  
Ashbourne,  
Derbyshire.

24th June, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of the urban district for the year ending 31st December, 1956.

The vital statistics for the district are again satisfactory and only the birth and still birth rates have figures worse than the national ones.

There has been very little notifiable infectious disease during the year and whooping cough was responsible for most of the notifications received. No cases of diphtheria, poliomyelitis or meningococcal infection occurred.

Following registration in the spring anti-poliomyelitis vaccination commenced in this country in the early summer months. Treatment was discontinued during the poliomyelitis season and resumed in the winter. Because of limited supplies of vaccine only a small proportion of the children registered were vaccinated during the year, but enough were done to demonstrate amply the safety of the procedure. It is of course much too early to be able to give any estimate of the protection value of the British Vaccine, but it has been demonstrated that its antigenic properties are equal to the best American Vaccines and better than some.

Five years ago an investigation was commenced into the mortality of British doctors in relation to their smoking habits. The second report issued in November confirms that smoking, especially cigarettes, greatly increases the risk of men developing lung Cancer and that pipe smoking is about one third as dangerous as cigarettes. The investigation shows that the risks of smoking are not confined to lung Cancer, and that smoking also leads to increased mortality from chronic Bronchitis, and to a lesser degree Coronary Thrombosis and Pulmonary Tuberculosis. A Birmingham investigation of the smoking habits of 1,200 Tuberculosis cases also suggests that smoking may be an important cause of the breakdown of active Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

This year has been a very busy one for the Sanitary Department, and it has been very helpful that with the appointment of Mr. Bentham as Public Health Inspector, the separation of the sanitary from the engineering side has enabled him to get through a great deal of work in connection with housing inspections and the Food Hygiene Regulations. Meat inspection has taken up a great deal of the Inspector's time and it is unfortunate that the question of inspection at weekends and outside office hours has not yet been solved. We are grateful for the co-operation of the Rural District Council in enabling meat inspection to be carried out during holiday periods and Mr. Bentham has been able to give a similar service in return.

Once again it is a great pleasure to acknowledge my indebtedness to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk and other officers, and especially to the Public Health Inspector.

I have the honour to be, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

William J. Morrissey  
Medical Officer of Health.

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## STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area of District in acres	1,075	
Estimated Mid-Year Population 1956	5,480	
Estimated number of houses	1,723	
Rateable Value	£63,364	
Product of Penny Rate	£237	
Rate in the pound		22/10
Loan Debt at 31st March, 1957		
Housing	£599,621.	16. 8
Water Supply	5,411.	12. 10
General	51,155.	4. 9
Total	£656,188.	14. 3

## VITAL STATISTICS

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals	30	36	66
Legitimate	27	35	62
Illegitimate	3	1	4
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			12.04
Comparability Factor			1.04
Adjusted Birth Rate			13.62
England and Wales Birth Rate			15.7

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals	2	2	4
Legitimate	2	1	3
Illegitimate	-	1	1
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			57.1
England and Wales Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			23.0

## Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals	-	-	-
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

## Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Totals	-	-	-
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

## Infant Mortality

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	00.0
England and Wales Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	23.8

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	38	52	90

Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	14.59
Comparability Factor	0.63
Adjusted Death Rate	9.18
England and Wales Death Rate	11.7

Deaths from Cancer (all forms)

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
5	11	16

Deaths from Cancer, lung and bronchus

<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
3	-	3

DEATHS REGISTERED DURING 1956

The following table shows the principal causes of deaths registered in 1956 :-

Causes of Death	Male	Female	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	3	4
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	-	3
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	3	3
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	-	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	5	6
Diabetes	-	-	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	10	14	24
Coronary disease, angina	3	4	7
Hypertension with heart disease	-	1	1
Other heart disease	4	5	9
Other circulatory disease	9	13	22
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
Other defined and ill defined diseases	2	2	4
All other accidents	2	-	2
Totals	37	51	88

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of notifications of infectious diseases received during 1956 was 48 as compared with 207 in 1955.

Details of the notifications received and the number removed to hospital are shown in the following table :-

Disease	Number of Cases	
	Notified	Removed to Hospital
Scarlet Fever	1	1
Whooping Cough	43	-
Pneumonia	1	-
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	2	2
Tuberculosis (Other)	1	-
Totals	48	3



Tabulated below is the age incidence of the cases of infectious disease notified during 1956 :-

Disease	Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-	10-	15-	20-	35-	45-	60-	Total
Scarlet Fever							1						1
Whooping Cough	2		2	6	5	26		1				1	43
Pneumonia											1		1
Tuberculosis (Pul.)											2		2
Tuberculosis (Other)												1	1
Totals	2	-	2	6	5	26	1	1	-	-	3	2	48

#### Diphtheria and Diphtheria Immunisation

There were no diphtheria cases reported in the District. The Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health drew attention again in his Annual Report to the necessity for maintaining the level of immunisation.

Most primary immunisations in the district are carried out by General Practitioners. Immunisation is available at the School Clinics and Infant Welfare Centres. The school doctors give booster doses at the schools and also primary immunisation to those children whose parents neglected to have it done at the proper time during infancy.

#### Poliomyelitis and Anti-poliomyelitis Vaccine

The incidence of this disease was low for the Country as a whole. No case occurred during the year in the urban district. In the spring parents were invited to register children born in the years 1947-1954 if they wished them to be vaccinated against poliomyelitis. Many parents held back owing to doubts in their minds of the safety of the treatment. Supplies of the vaccine were very limited and at the end of the year 18,000 of those who registered in the Country were still not done. The value of the British produced vaccine must await time to be proved, but it has been now demonstrated to be safe and free from any general side effects or local reactions.

#### Tuberculosis

Three notifications of tuberculosis were received, one Non-Respiratory and two Respiratory. This compares with six during the previous year. A Mass X-Ray survey carried out in Ashbourne in 1952 failed to record any active cases and low rates for inactive cases. Less than 50% of the population attended and there was an undue proportion of school children in this number. I think another survey in the near future would be of value, and it would be better to confine it to people of 15 years and upwards.

#### B.C.G. Vaccination

In February the first (progress) report to the Medical Research Council on the use of B.C.G. vaccine in the prevention of tuberculosis in adolescents was issued. The trial seems to show beyond doubt the benefit of B.C.G. vaccination for adolescents in an urban industrialised community. The County Health Committee has decided to seek the approval of the Minister of Health to an amendment of the County Council's proposals under the National Health Service Act, 1946, to enable the authority to offer B.C.G. vaccination to classes of persons approved from time to time by the Minister. It is intended that a scheme for B.C.G. vaccination of children between their 13th and 14th birthdays shall be gradually introduced throughout the Administrative County.

B.C.G. vaccination is at present available through the Chest Clinics for child contacts and other people at special risk of exposure to infection.

## BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS

The County Bacteriologist undertakes, on behalf of the Council, all the bacteriological examinations.

Specimens and swabs taken by Medical Practitioners are forwarded direct to the Derbyshire County Council's Bacteriologist, Public Health Laboratory, County Offices, St. Mary's Gate, Derby. (Telephone No.47131).

The Laboratory will be taken over in the near future by the Medical Research Council, and is moving to new premises in the grounds of the Derbyshire Royal Infirmary.

## WELFARE SERVICES

### Ante-Natal Clinic

Maternity Home, Green Road, Ashbourne - Thursday, 9 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 1.30 p.m. to 4 p.m. Tel. Ashbourne 102.

### Infant Welfare Clinic

St. John's Rooms, Ashbourne - Wednesday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.

### Welfare Foods Distribution Centres

4, Town Hall Yard, Ashbourne - Tuesday and Thursday, 9.15 a.m. to 12.45 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. to 12 noon.  
Clinic - St. John Street, Ashbourne - Wednesday, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

### Dental Clinic

"St. Oswald's", Ashbourne - By appointment.

### Eye Clinic

Walker Lane, Derby - Monday a.m. Tel. Derby 47131, Ext.155.

### Minor Ailment Clinic

"St. Oswald's", Ashbourne - 2nd and 4th Wednesday a.m. Doctor present.

### Orthopaedic Clinic

New County Offices Yard, St. Mary's Gate, Derby - Thursday.  
Telephone No. Derby 47131, Ext. 149.

### Speech Therapy Clinic

4 Town Hall Yard, Ashbourne - By appointment.

### Chest Clinic

93 Green Lane, Derby - Wednesday, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon; Friday, 9.30 a.m. to 12 noon and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m. to 12 noon (Contacts)  
Tel. Derby 40366.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To the Chairman and Members of the  
Ashbourne Urban District Council

Compton Offices,  
Ashbourne,  
Derbyshire.

24th June, 1957.

Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1956.

A good start has been made towards dealing with the unfit houses included in the Council's Slum Clearance programme, fourteen dwellings having been closed during the year. If this rate of progress can be maintained the problem will be resolved in five years instead of the ten years envisaged in the Return approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government.

The decline in the condition of the majority of the older type rented dwellings has continued, and it would appear that few owners have attempted to increase rents under the provisions of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954. No applications were received from tenants for Certificates of Disrepair under the Act.

A reciprocal arrangement, agreed between the Council and the Ashbourne Rural District Council, to cover periods of absence from duty, has ensured the operation of a 100% meat inspection service.

Very good quality meat was produced, the majority of beasts slaughtered being young heifers or bullocks. The incidence of Tuberculosis amongst all cattle slaughtered was 10% but in only two cases was the disease generalised, necessitating total condemnation of the carcase and offal.

The conditions under which the meat is produced give cause for serious concern, and it is hoped that the proposed slaughterhouse legislation will provide the Council with the means to remedy this unsatisfactory position. It is interesting to recall that in a Report presented in 1914 comment was made on the insanitary condition of the slaughterhouses, and the Council was recommended to provide a public slaughterhouse.

The Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, which became operative on 1st January, 1956, have helped to focus attention on the subject of clean food and achieve distinct improvements in the food premises. There remains, however, much to be done to accomplish the desired standards of food hygiene.

In conclusion I wish to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Public Health and Waterworks Committee for their support, and to the Clerk of the Council and Medical Officer of Health for their co-operation and advice.

I am, Lady and Gentlemen,  
Your obedient Servant,

STANLEY BENTHAM  
Public Health Inspector.





SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS AND VISITS MADE DURING 1956

(28th May to 31st December, 1956)

Bakehouses	12
Butchers' Shop :	8
Cafes	6
Drain Obstructions	7
Drain Tests and Inspections	27
Dustbins	6
Factories - Mechanical	13
Fish Shops	1
Food Premises (not otherwise listed)	33
Hotels and Licensed Premises	8
Housing - Defects	101
- Improvement Grants	2
- Nuisances	13
- Overcrowding	1
- Survey of Unfit Houses	210
- Unfit Houses	45
Ice Cream Premises	8
Infectious Diseases	4
Meat Inspection	345
Rag Flock Premises	1
Rodent Control	3
Sampling - Milk	1
- Water	1
Shops Act	1
Slaughterhouses - Inspection	4
Smoke Nuisances	3
Unsound Food	11
Miscellaneous, Interviews, etc.	170
Council House Repairs, etc.	34
Housing Tenancies	8
Markets	10
Petroleum Regulations	23
Public Conveniences	12
Refuse Collection	12
Refuse Disposal	21
Salvage	14
Sewage Disposal	3
Water Supply	10
Total	<u>1,192</u>

DWELLING HOUSE REPAIRS

NOTICES SERVED DURING 1956  
PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936

Number of Informal Notices served	25
Number of Informal Notices complied with	19
Number of Statutory Notices served	1
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	1

The majority of property owners were co-operative in carrying out repairs, and it was only necessary in one case for the Council to serve a Statutory Notice.

The repair of the older terrace type houses, which have generally been allowed to lapse into a state of acute disrepair, presents a serious problem on account of low rentals and high building costs. Unless a determined effort is made to secure the reconditioning and improvement of these properties within the next few years, many will ultimately require action involving their closure or demolition.



## HOUSING IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

Nine applications were made for Improvement Grants under the Housing Act, 1949 and the Council agreed to make grants in seven cases. In each case a bathroom with a W.C. and a hot water supply was installed.

Of the seven houses, in respect of which grants were made, six were owner/occupied. It is disappointing that so few owners are prepared to improve their tenanted houses and to take advantage of this scheme.

## HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954 - SECTION 1

In accordance with the Council's instructions a new survey was made of sub-standard houses in the District.

Two hundred and ten dwellings were inspected and a report was submitted to the Council together with a schedule of 73 houses considered to be unfit and incapable of repair at reasonable expense.

The report received the Council's appraisal, and subsequently a revised Return was approved by the Minister of Housing and Local Government. The houses were classified as follows :-

### The Total Problem

- (i) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 8 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954 and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936. 73
- (ii) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (i). 10

### Action in the first five years

- (iii) Number of houses which are to be included in clearance areas still to be declared and which within the five years will be owned by the local authority or will have been included in a clearance order or a compulsory purchase order submitted to the Minister. 9
- (iv) Number of houses under (iii) to be demolished in the five years. 9
- (v) Number of houses (including those already comprised in operative demolition orders) to be demolished in the five years as a result of action under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936. 28

## INDIVIDUAL UNFIT HOUSES DEALT WITH DURING 1956

<u>Demolition and Closing Orders</u>	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>No. of Persons Displaced</u>
(1) Housing Act, 1936		
(a) Houses demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure under Section 11	-	-
(b) Houses closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by the owners under Section 11, and still in force	1	-
(c) Parts of buildings closed (Section 12)	1	3

	<u>No. of Houses</u>	<u>No. of Persons Displaced</u>
(2) Housing Act, 1949 (a) Closing Orders made under Section 3(1)	-	-
(b) Demolition Orders determined and Closing Orders substituted under Section 3(2)	-	-
(3) Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953. Closing Orders made under Section 10(1)	12	20

It has been necessary for the Council to invoke the closure procedure in respect of all the unfit houses dealt with during the year, as it was not possible for these houses to be demolished whilst the adjoining properties remained occupied. At a later stage, when the adjacent houses are vacated, demolition of all the unfit houses can be effected.

#### FOOD PREMISES

On the 1st January, 1956, the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, and the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955, became operative. The Regulations contained new provisions giving Local Authorities wider powers to secure the hygienic preparation, handling, storage and distribution of food.

All the food traders were circularised regarding the effect of the new Regulations, and also supplied with an abstract of the Regulations.

Inspections of the food premises revealed a need for better facilities and practices, and on the whole the food traders responded in a satisfactory manner. Whilst the Council have a duty to enforce the Regulations, food traders can themselves do invaluable work by promoting clean habits amongst their staffs, and thereby reduce the risks of infection from food.

Two applications were made to the Council for Certificates of Exemption from certain requirements of the Regulations. The Council, by refusing to grant the Exemption Certificates, confirmed their intention to implement fully the provisions of the Regulations.

The number of food premises in the District is as follows :-

Bakehouses	8
Butchers	7
Cafes	5
Canteens	7
Confectioners	15
Fishmongers	2
Food Factory	1
Fried Fish Premises	3
Greengrocers	6
Grocers	15
Licensed Premises	19
Total	<hr/> 88 <hr/>



## Food and Drugs Act, 1955 - Section 16

Number of premises registered for the manufacture and sale of ice cream	1
Number of premises registered for the sale only of ice cream	29
Number of premises registered for the manufacture of preserved foods	15

### MILK AND DAIRIES

Registered Dairies	2
Registered Distributors	5
Dealers' Licences to sell Tuberculin Tested Milk	5
Dealers' Licences to sell Pasteurised Milk	1
Supplementary Licences for Tuberculin Tested Milk	1
Supplementary Licences for Pasteurised Milk	1

### SLAUGHTERHOUSES

There are four licensed private slaughterhouses in the District. Following the issue of the Government's White Paper - "A Policy to Regulate the Provision of Slaughterhouses in England and Wales" - a Report was submitted to the Council on the slaughterhouse facilities in Ashbourne. A Sub-Committee was appointed to consider the provision of satisfactory and adequate facilities in the town.

The Slaughterhouses at present in use are badly sited, structurally unsound and lack proper facilities for the hygienic slaughtering and dressing of animals. The provision of a properly constructed and equipped slaughterhouse with a good lay-out is an urgent necessity. This could best be achieved by the provision of a slaughterhouse, sufficiently large to meet the needs of all the local butchers, on a readily accessible site where no nuisance could be caused.

### SLAUGHTERMEN

Sixteen slaughtermen were licensed under the Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933-54.

### MEAT INSPECTIONS

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part  
(28th May - 31st December, 1956)

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	361	7	2	868	388
Number Inspected	361	7	2	868	388
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	63	2	-	2	4
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.5%	28.6%	-	.23%	1.03%

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	2	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	33	1	-	-	11
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	9.7%	14.3%	-	-	2.8%
<u>Cysticercosis</u>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Analysis of condemned meat (in lbs.)

	<u>Beef</u>	<u>Veal</u>	<u>Mutton</u>	<u>Pork</u>
Tuberculosis	2,393	-	-	148
Parasites and Cysts	493	-	4	-
Actinomycosis	76	-	-	-
Pleurisy	20	-	-	2
Pneumonia	-	-	-	6
Abscesses	19	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	31	-	-	-
	3,032	-	4	156

The average amount condemned per beast slaughtered - all diseases . . . 8.2 lbs.

The average amount condemned per beast slaughtered - Tuberculosis only . 6.5 lbs.

## FOOD CONDEMNED DURING 1956

	cwts.	lbs.	ozs.
Fish		30	-
Tripe		41	12
Tinned ham		90	9
" tongue		20	-
" steak			8
" meat loaf			12
" pork luncheon meat		12	-
" corned beef		24	12
" fish		1	14
" tomatoes		41	4
" carrots		1	3
" peas		8	14
" soup		2	14
" plums		74	12
" peaches		1	-
" oranges		1	6
" strawberries			10
" pineapples		3	15
" pears		3	10
" milk and cream		7	4
Total weight	3	32	15

## DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

Condemned food is collected and taken to the refuse disposal tip at Snelston.

## FOOD SAMPLING

### Food and Drugs Act, 1955

The "Food and Drugs Authority" is the Derbyshire County Council and the County Analyst, R.W. Sutton, Esq., B.Sc., F.R.I.C., F.C.S. has kindly supplied the following report on samples taken in the Urban District :-

"Thirty-seven samples, including 18 Milks, were taken under the Act in the area of the Ashbourne Urban District Council.

One sample of T.T. Channel Island Milk contained only 3.76% of fat as against the minimum requirement of 4% for Milk from Channel Island Cattle. The producer was cautioned.

The remaining samples were all classed as satisfactory."

## WATER SUPPLY

To augment water supplies due to an increase in consumption and a decrease in the yield of the Rodsley wells, the Council carried out tests at the disused Derby Road Well to determine the possible yield from this source. Satisfactory results were obtained and an application was made to the Ministry for permission to extract water from the Derby Road well which had been closed since 1929.

Samples of water submitted for bacteriological examination and chemical analysis were found to be satisfactory.

## SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

Electrification of pumping at the Sewage Disposal Works, Mayfield Road was begun towards the end of the year.

Descaling of certain lengths of the main sewer was carried out and an extension completed to the storm water sewer outfall into the Henmore Brook.



## LEGISLATION

During the year the Council made Byelaws under Section 146(4) of the Derbyshire County Council Act, 1954, as to Hairdressers and Barbers. They will become operative on 1st March, 1957.

### FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948

#### Inspections of Factories

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	17	2	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	58	20	1	-
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	6	-	-	-
Totals	81	22	1	-

#### Cases in which defects were found

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
			To H.M. Insp.	By H.M. Insp.	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)-					
(a) Insufficient	1	-	-	-	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	-	-	-	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	-	1	-	1	-
Total	2	1	-	1	-

## Means of Escape in case of Fire - Factories Act, 1937 - Section 34

After a report had been made on the arrangements at a Factory the Council issued a Certificate of Adequate Means of Escape in case of fire.

All the factories to which this Section applies, have now been issued with Certificates.

### Outworkers

The number of outworkers in the district was 151, classified as follows :-

Corsetry	147
Knitted Garments	4

## RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

One premise has been registered under the above Act.

### SMOKE ABATEMENT

The Clean Air Act received the Royal Assent on the 5th July, 1956. The powers contained in the Act represent a considerable advance upon previous legislation dealing with this subject.

Whilst atmospheric pollution does not present such a serious problem in Ashbourne as in the industrial areas, the Council should remain mindful of the need to carry out all possible improvements. As the proportion of industrial premises is low, the greater amount of air pollution in the town arises from domestic properties. In an effort to reduce domestic smoke, the Council have fitted smokeless fuel burning grates in all their post war Council houses. Many of the tenants, however, do not burn the correct types of fuel.

Towards the end of the year, complaints were received regarding a smoke nuisance arising from a local factory. Several inspections of the boiler plant were made, as a result of which a considerable improvement was effected. Inefficient stoking was the main cause of this nuisance arising.

### REFUSE COLLECTION

A weekly collection of refuse from 1,978 premises was maintained throughout the year. One side-loading refuse vehicle was operated with a driver/loader and three loaders.

The time may now be opportune to consider the replacement of the present vehicle, which is in its ninth year of service, by a vehicle of larger capacity and of the rear loading type. To offset increased running costs fewer hauls would have to be made to the tip, which involve a journey of approximately eleven miles, the work of the loaders would be facilitated, and less nuisance would arise.

Many premises are still without suitable dustbins, the use of tubs, drums etc. adding to the difficulties of collection and not affording proper storage. Action to secure the provision of proper dustbins is contemplated in the near future.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL

All refuse has been tipped into the disused copper mine at Snelston, the Council renting a portion of the site for this purpose.

Crude tipping is employed and although this method is unsatisfactory considerable improvement was made during the year. The shape and depth of the mine have to some extent dictated the method of disposal and as the Council do not have complete control indiscriminate tipping by private persons often creates difficulties. Internal combustion resulted in firing of the tip which was brought under control in the autumn. Frequent treatments were carried out to exterminate rodent infestations. All possible steps will be taken to ensure that a minimum of nuisance arises.

The tip is approximately  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the town centre and an effort was made to find an alternative site nearer to the district. A suitable site was located but unfortunately the owner was not prepared to lease or sell the land.

#### SALVAGE

##### Waste Paper

A weekly collection was made from business premises and 45 tons 1 cwt. were sold for £315. 5. 3d. (April 1956 to March 1957).

##### Scrap Metal

12 tons. 15 cwts. were sold for £68. 1. 11d. (April 1956 to March 1957).

#### RODENT CONTROL

The Council do not employ a Rodent Operator, but the General Foreman has received training in this work.

All complaints were investigated and treatments carried out where necessary. Routine inspections and treatments were regularly carried out at the Refuse Disposal Tip and Sewage Disposal Works. During the year two sewer treatments revealed only slight rat infestations.

#### PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS

Number of Licences issued	21
Total quantity of petrol covered by Licences	45,900 gallons

During the year four new petrol storage tanks, each of 1,000 gallons capacity, were installed at one of the licensed premises. They were tested in the prescribed manner and found to be satisfactory.

#### PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Public Conveniences are maintained by the Council at the Omnibus Station, in Union Street and in the Memorial Gardens.

At the end of the year washing facilities were installed in the Ladies and Gentlemen's Conveniences at the Omnibus Station. It is hoped that the Council will provide similar amenities in the Union Street Conveniences during 1957.









